

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1949.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

14th September, 1950.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year, 1949.

There was a further fall in the birth-rate during the year, there being eight fewer births than in the previous year. There was an increase in the death-rate, but it will be noted that the greater proportion of deaths (60%) occurred from causes associated with the higher age groups. There was a fall in the Infant Mortality Rate compared with the previous year.

Local Industries.- These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Pencillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 700 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.- Due to the severe drought extending from May until October it was necessary to curtail the supply of water at nights during these months. Otherwise the spring supply and the surplus water from the Royal Air Force Borehole provided a good continuous supply to the town. The analysis of the water was satisfactory.

The sinking of a new borehole near Mount Pleasant is proceeding and boring had reached a depth of 100 feet below ground level by the end of the year. Boring will continue until the water bearing strata is reached and it is anticipated that the yield should be sufficient to meet present shortage and allow good reserves for future development.

Rivers and Streams.- No reports or evidence was received during the year of any pollution to rivers and streams. Frequent inspection and immediate steps are taken if any pollution is suspected or reported.

Refuse Tips.- The refuse tip is well removed from the town and nearest dwelling house. As the tip extends, the areas filled are levelled and covered with earth and sown with grass seed. The land available for tipping is quickly becoming filled and negotiations have been commenced for the purchase of additional land adjoining, which will be a natural extension of the present tip.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.- The Sewage Disposal Works continues to work satisfactorily and no complaint has been received from official or other quarters.

Work is now proceeding on the alteration to the Sewage Disposal Works with a view to the treatment of a certain amount of effluent from the Penicillin Factory, on an experimental basis, as agreed between the Council and the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Closet Accommodation.- Twenty one pail closets remain in the area. Most of these are serving houses in Confirmed Clearance Orders. Five privies serve outlying farms and cannot at present be connected to the sewers.

Housing.- Four Council, and one private, houses were completed and occupied during the year. The four built by the Council were the completion of the twelve key workers houses in Victoria Road.

The contract for twenty-six houses on the Station Road Housing Site on which work commenced in December, 1948 made slow progress during the year. A further contract for forty-eight houses on this site has been let, work commencing in September, 1949.

There is room for another twenty-eight houses on this site which when completed will accommodate 102 houses.

Housing (Continued).- A Compulsory Purchase Order for a portion of the land in Victoria Road and Green Lane which is earmarked for further development by the Council and will accommodate approximately one hundred and fifty houses, was made during the year a Public Local Inquiry being held early in 1950.

There is a very urgent need for further new houses. The number of families living in insanitary and overcrowded conditions is very large and the Council's list of applicants which is in the region of 300 houses tends to grow.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 - Part I.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	9	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	11	1
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	7	-
Total ...	77	27	1

Occupiers prosecuted - Nil.

Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars	Number Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences - (a) Insufficient	1	1

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork.- The August list from a local Glove Factory contained names of seven outworkers. All seven were resident in Barnard Castle, they have been visited and found satisfactory.

Common Lodging House.- One person is registered as a keeper and keeps 23, Bridgegate as a common lodging.

The premises are old and are rapidly approaching a condition when by reason of disrepair and general delapidation they will need to be demolished. The standard of cleanliness and general orderliness leaves much to be desired.

Smoke Abatement.- No nuisances were observed nor were any complaints received.

Rodent Control.- A rodent operative is employed jointly with Barnard Castle and Startforth Rural District Councils.

The Councils sewers have received a full treatment and a maintenance treatment during the year.

The refuse tip and Sewage Disposal Works have been treated on three occasions and these infestations were kept at a very low level throughout the year.

Eight business and twelve domestic premises also received attention. All of these infestations were small and satisfactory results were obtained with Ministry of Agriculture methods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - Ice Cream.- The three premises which had been registered to manufacture ice-cream, had their registration cancelled by the Council as their premises and equipment did not comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. Applications for two of these premises to be registered for the sale of ice-cream were granted by the Council.

Thirteen premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured inside the Urban District.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.- With the coming into force of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, on the 1st October, 1949, the supervision of the five cowsheds in the area passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council now has the supervision of distribution only. Eight retailers operate within the Urban Area. Three of these sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk; one, Pasteurised Milk; and another, Tuberculin Tested Milk, and they are licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Meat.- Slaughtering of animals is centralised in premises in Vere Road for the Startforth Rural, Barnard Castle Rural and the Barnard Castle Urban Districts.

Meat inspection at the time of slaughter is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council. All three Officers hold the Meat and Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The premises used as a slaughter house are poor and are well below the standard required for a modern abattoir.

Seven cases of animals affected with Cysticercus Bovis were found during the year. None of these were in a generalised condition and after three weeks in cold store they were released for the trade the affected parts being destroyed.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

1st January, 1949 to 31st December, 1949.

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves.		Sheep and Lambs.		Pigs.		
	C.C	Cas.	C.C	Cas.	C.C	Cas.	C.C	Cas.	C.C	Cas.	S.S
Number Killed	879	74	167	178	20	169	3968	150	49	90	89
Number Inspected	879	74	167	178	20	169	3968	150	49	90	77
<u>All Diseases</u> <u>except</u> <u>Tuberculosis.</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	-	13	-	54	-	43	6	32	-	4	-
Carcase - some part condemned	479	37	56	83	-	5	90	36	4	23	1
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	54.5	67.6	33.5	77.0	-	28.4	2.4	45.3	8.2	300	1.3
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u> -											
Whole carcase condemned	2	4	3	21	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcase - some part condemned	56	4	43	15	-	-	-	-	2	1	2
Percentages of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	6.6	10.8	27.5	20.2	-	-	-	-	4.1	2.2	2.6

Key to Diagram on opposite page.

- C. C. - Animals from a Collecting Centre.
 Cas. - Animals received as Casualties.
 S. S. - Ministry of Food self supplying scheme (Cottages Pigs).

One case of food poisoning was notified under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The organism isolated was one found frequently in ducks eggs, and it was ascertained that the patient had eaten ducks eggs on two occasions while the other members of the family had not eaten any. The ducks were subsequently killed and eaten. No other cases occurred, and the patient made a good recovery.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	Number of Informal written notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal notices by order of Authority.	Number of nuisances abated after notice.
Dwelling Houses:			
Structural defects	21	4	19
Overcrowding	4	4	-
Lodging houses	1	-	1
Deposits of refuse & manure	1	-	1
Water closets	1	1	1
House drainage	12	1	12
Water Supply	4	-	4
Dustbins	19	4	19
Totals ...	<u>63</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>57</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	560
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure - mid-year 1949)	4,560
Number of inhabited houses	1,302
Rateable value	£27,451
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£101: 13: 5.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total	Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate) 71 (	67	38	29
	Illegitimate) (	4	1	3

Live birth rate - 15.6 per 1,000 civilian population. Corresponding rate for the 148 smaller towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) - 18.0.

		Total	Male	Female
<u>Still births</u>	Legitimate) 2 (	2	-	2
	Illegitimate) (	-	-	-

Still birth rate (per 1,000 civilian population) - 0.43. Corresponding rate for 148 smaller towns - 0.40.

	Total	Male	Female
<u>Deaths</u>	71	37	34

Death rate (per 1,000 civilian population) - 15.6

For 148 smaller towns - 11.6.

Death rate of Infants under one year.-

	Male	Female
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Death rate of Infants under one year of age.-

All Infants (per 1,000 live births)	28
148 smaller towns	30

Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	1	1
Cancer (all types)	7	4	11
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	5	7	12
Heart Diseases	15	10	25
Other Diseases of Circulatory Systems	-	3	3
Bronchitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases	-	1	1
Nephritis	2	3	5
Suicide	1	-	1
Other violent causes	1	-	1
All other causes	2	2	4
	37	34	71

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A total of only thirteen cases of infectious diseases was notified during the year. This is the smallest number of cases notified during the past ten years at least.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) during the year.-

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total Cases.
Scarlet Fever	3	3	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	2	-	-	2
Measles	2	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	5	-	-	5

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Scarlet Fever	11	7	2	27	2
Diphtheria	-	5	-	-	-
Measles	11	5	50	60	2
Whooping Cough	9	-	18	9	5
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-

Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in Age Groups.

	Under one Year.	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	Age Unknown.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.- As a result of the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the responsibility for the provision of facilities for diphtheria immunisation is now undertaken by the County Council.

Facilities provided comprise, in this area, the Child Welfare Centre for the immunisation of children aged under five years, and the private practitioners' for children of any age. Payment of fees to practitioners will be made by the County Council under a scale not yet decided upon.

During the year a number of immunisations was also given at the schools, with the approval of the County Education Committee.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Age at date of final injection		Total under 15.
0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
42	1	43

Number given reinforcing injection - 9.

Tuberculosis.

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Deaths.- One death from Respiratory Tuberculosis occurred, that of a male aged 28 years.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff.- The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. A grant is made to his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals.- There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity or Children in the district.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Diseases Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.- Upon the coming into operation on the 5th July, 1948, of the National Health Service Act, 1946, responsibility for the provision of ambulance facilities was taken over by the County Council.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year. It should be noted that figures are included for work done in the North Riding of Yorkshire (Stafford R.D.C.) this arrangement being provided for in the original proposals.

1949.

Table A.

Barnard Castle
Urban & Rural.

Ambulance Controls
Clerk-Telephonists
Ambulance Depots
Ambulance
Sitting-case Cars
Driver Attendants

-
-
2
2
-
2

Table B.

Area	No. of Journeys made	No. of Patients carried			Total Milcage
		Stretcher cases	Sitting cases	Total	
Barnard Castle U.D. & Barnard Castle R.D.	692	352	805	1,157	41,807
North Riding of Yorkshire.	114	45	71	116	5,141
TOTAL	806	397	876	1,273	46,948

The Ambulance Control for the area is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed over the 24 hours by a team of 4 Clerk Telephonists.

Nursing Arrangements.- Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, which now operates under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the intergration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the services formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements whereby the domiciliary midwifery service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area and for the Startforth district by two nurses resident in the town. General, midwifery and maternity cases are nursed.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress, Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held in alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle under the County Council Scheme. Attendances at the school clinic were negligible.

Area Health Sub-Committee.- A scheme was adopted by the County Council for the appointment of Health Sub-Committees to exercise certain functions of the County Health Committee. Three members of the Council are members of the sub-committee for this area which includes the Rural District of Barnard Castle.

The sub-committee met on four occasions during the year and the Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, was received.

I am indebted to your Surveyor Mr. F. L. White and Mr. E. Dixon, Sanitary Inspector, for their Assistance in compiling this Report.

I am, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.